

Whole Letter

18 Via di S. Isidoro 2 piano Rome

My dear Father

Rome Sunday - March 24th 1882

How I wish that I could fly the 15 hundred miles and dine with you to day - to tell you all ^{my} plans and delightful occupations now. I remember with what pleasure you have listened to my future views - although we both thought them "fast to in the air" - and encouraged me to go on - but with a doubting heart - but now I should show that these fasts are on "Terra Firma" and I am pursuing the very points which gave me pleasure when a boy - I should be delighted to ^{describe to} you what a beautiful and convenient place I am living in with all that I can desire for my studies and comfort - you can form no idea of the conveniences I find in Rome for my studies - I should tell you that I have removed into the place I have been a long time trying to get - there are 6 Rooms all going into each other - The 1st is my Library where 14 Englishmen meet every day to study - 2^d is my Painting Room 20 Feet by 30 with a glorious light - 3^d is filled with original studies & pictures &c (for I have done many things) - these Rooms are in a line without doors on the sunny side I have 1st my Breakfast Room - hung round with copies from Raffaele, Titian & Rubens - 2 large folding Windows open on a balcony and look all over magnificent Rome - this Room is delicious - the sun substitutes a fire in Winter - I enjoy this most - 2^d Room with a fire place for Winter nights - here I have my library - 3^d my bed room with the same look over Rome and East - so that passing & coming with me delicious views - on the top I have got an Observatory which gives me a Panorama of Rome -

you will be astonished that I give no more than 9 £
per year for all these Rooms. But they were improved
- and the Academy pays 9 £ more - but I have the use
of it all day it opens to my Painting Room by large
doors so that I can see my picture at any distance
- I am living here quite alone with ~~no one~~ out save a
servant - with nothing to interrupt me - it is perfect quiet
all rooms. - An Old Woman comes ~~at~~ in the morn and makes
my Breakfast - cleans the rooms &c. - during this I have
a walk for an hour and then return to breakfast in
this Paradise - with no other desire than to dine with you ^{one} Sunday

My Picture of Alexander is going on well. I hope to
finish it before the Summer - the figure is larger than
life - the picture is 9 Feet by 6 I wish to make a grand En-
graving of it. - in my painting Room I have 32 Academy
figures - which are much admired and talked of -
they have been all done by me in our Academy - you
will imagine my dear Father what satisfaction I
have to hear and see that no one can approach me
in these Academy ~~figures~~ ^{Artists} when the Academy breaks
up of an evening they all come round me to look
at the Dr's work - and what I enjoy is - that I can draw
in every style - and in every figure I feel to improve - I
have just purchased a fine Skeleton for 1 £ - and we
are expecting a dead body tomorrow ~~from~~ ^{from} which
we are determined to be perfect in Anatomy - it is to be
dissected in one of my lectures - so that I shall be able
to draw every part the size of Nature.

The Furniture cost me 20 £ I bought it of the last inhabitant
and it again - it is a great saving to me

I am going to tell you something which has been many
years in my mind. It will seem impossible to you and
will shake your head and laugh at me but remember I
am here with half my views accomplished. Things that
you could never even hope to come to pass. Therefore my
dear Father you must think and hope with me that
this week I am going ^{to} ~~propose~~ ^{to} come to pass.
You know very well my great delight in Gothic History
and its Antiquities. I mean more particularly
you will remember my notion of painting a set of
pictures from the English History. I am now confirmed
in my object and am ~~in~~ in my leisure moments preparing
these compositions. I have sounded some of the principal
English Noblemen here - who seem quite struck with
the idea. I am going to ~~present~~ ^{mention} it to the Prince Leopold
to whom I have ^{been} introduced by Lady Westmorland. He takes
great notice of me. I have had the honor to accompany
him to the Vatican. ~~Now~~ my object will be to paint
one picture and produce the compositions of the
~~the~~ ^{the times} I return to England - and through Prince L. lay
before the King. He may be pleased with them and give
me commissions. Now my dear Father - this is necessary
that when I return to England I take a tour to collect
the English Antiquities to my purpose. - the drapery - the
Chateaux &c. &c. which I shall work into these pictures
and ^{have in} view - that you and I go together. - it will be
necessary for me to have a companion - and I should
rather have above all others - since he first gave
me this strong desire for English History - a desire that
has been ever before me ever since.

is stronger every day I live - I know well what a desire you
 have to see these things - and I don't know any one who
 admires them more sincerely - I have got many imitations
 from English Noblemen who have Antiquaries in their
 Estates - and I hope to sell the pictures that I paint
 here - so that I can break the neck of such a journey
 very well - I have ~~mentioned~~ my Father - to those whom
 I know you will like - ~~that~~ and they very kindly invited
 you with me - so that I shall hope to return you some
 of the pleasure and encouragement to your Hobby Horse - such
 as you have ever shown to mine

I have you got any shooting in
 the garden this spring - I mean of course
 I am in very good health and spirits
 but have been a little
 out in my digestion
 the climate is too
 hot for me - England
 is the place

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I have received the account of your happy Christmas day
 - God by my dear Father - I shall pray for the
 journey - but above ^{all} for your health & happiness
 may often again see you sitting in your
 your father's study